

**CLAIMS**

1. Chewing gum compositions containing
  - (a) a water-insoluble base component,
  - 5 (b) a water-soluble component and
  - (c) extracts of plants selected from the group consisting of *Ginkgo biloba*, *Camellia sinensis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Vitis vitifera*, *Olea europensis*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Salix (alba)*, *Harpagophytum procumbens* and mixtures thereof.
- 10 2. Chewing gum compositions containing
  - (a) a water-insoluble base component,
  - (b) a water-soluble component and
  - 15 (c) plant-derived active principles selected from the group consisting of catechols, flavonoids, quercitrins, resveratrols, flavonoid glycosides, isoflavones, isoflavone glycosides, iridoid glycosides, harpagosides, harpagides, proambides, anthocyanosides and salicylates and mixtures thereof.
- 20 3. Compositions as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that they contain as component (a) water-insoluble components selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic elastomers, resins, fats and oils, plasticizers, fillers, softeners, dyes and waxes.
- 25 4. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that they contain component (a) in quantities of 5 to 95% by weight.
5. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that they contain as component (b) water-soluble
- 30 components selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners,

fillers, flavors, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, dyes, acidifying agents and antioxidants.

6. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that they contain component (b) in quantities of 5 to 95%  
5 by weight.

7. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that they contain as component (c) microcapsules with mean diameters of 0.0001 to 5 mm which consist of a membrane and a matrix containing the plant extracts and/or the plant-derived active  
10 principles and which can be obtained by

(a1) preparing a matrix from gel formers, chitosans and active principles,  
(a2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase and  
(a3) treating the dispersed matrix with aqueous solutions of anionic  
15 polymers and optionally removing the oil phase in the process

or by

(b1) preparing a matrix from gel formers, anionic polymers and active principles,  
(b2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase and  
20 (b3) treating the dispersed matrix with aqueous chitosan solutions and optionally removing the oil phase in the process

or by

(c1) processing aqueous active principle preparations with oil components in the presence of emulsifiers to form o/w emulsions,  
25 (c2) treating the emulsions obtained with aqueous solutions of anionic polymers,  
(c3) contacting the matrix thus obtained with aqueous chitosan solutions and  
(c4) removing the encapsulation products thus obtained from the  
30 aqueous phase.

8. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that they contain component (c) in quantities of 0.1 to 10% by weight.

5 9. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that they contain

(a) 5 to 49% by weight water-insoluble base component,

(b) 5 to 49% by weight water-soluble component and

10 (c) 2 to 10% by weight optionally encapsulated plant extracts and/or their active principles,

with the proviso that the quantities shown add up to 100% by weight.

10. The use of the plant extracts claimed in claim 1 or the active  
15 principles contained therein claimed in claim 2 for the production of chewing gum preparations.